

Remarks**Drawings-**

The designations for Figures 1 and 3 have been corrected and all of the Figures have been formalized. A copy of the formal drawings have been submitted to the chief draftsman and are also included herewith. Regarding the drawing objections made by the Examiner, the "a center of a joint" language has been deleted from claim 2 and the reference numeral 9 has been deleted from page 10 of the specification such that the objections are now believed overcome.

Specification and Abstract-

The Examiner objects to the specification and abstract by noting a number of improper formatting, improper grammar, and inconsistent terminology errors. Applicant has carefully reviewed the entire specification and abstract and has made numerous amendments thereto. The amendments are designed to ensure consistent labeling of terminology, ensure consistent use of reference numerals, correct grammatical errors, correct formatting errors, and ensure proper antecedent basis. Upon entering the amendments, each of the objections to the specification and abstract are now believed overcome. No new matter is being introduced by way of these amendments.

Claim Objections-

The Examiner objects to the claims because the least restrictive claim, claim 3, is not presented as claim number 1. Applicant notes that 37 CFR 1.75(g) states that the least restrictive claim "should" be presented as the first claim. As such, it is not mandatory that the least restrictive claim be presented as claim 1. Applicant is willing to cancel all of the claims and reintroduce the claims with the least restrictive claim first if requested by the Examiner. Applicant also notes that the Examiner may renumber the claims upon the allowance of the application.

Claim 1 is also objected to because of some inconsistent terminology. Claim 1 has been amended to correct this error. Accordingly, each of the claim objections are believed overcome.

Claim Rejections-

After entry of the subject amendment, claims 1-5 and 7-8 will remain pending in the application with claims 1-5 being amended and claims 7-8 being added. Claims 1 and 3 remain in independent form.

Claims 1, 2 & 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 112. The phrases and/or terminology rejected by the Examiner under §112 have been either cancelled or rewritten in claims 1, 2 & 4 such that these rejections are believed overcome. Claims 3 and 5 have similarly been amended to avoid any §112 issues.

Claims 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kudo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,791,995). In particular, the Examiner states that the Kudo et al. reference discloses trunnions 26a-26c having an outer surface that is partially spherical with a roller assembly 24, 32, 40 carried on each of the trunnions 26a-26c wherein a cutout or circumferential section, characterized by the Examiner as a cylindrical face, is formed on the outer surface of the trunnions 26a-26c. The Examiner also contends that the circumferential section 36, as shown in Figure 15, is inclined relative to each of the respective trunnion axes.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's contention that the Kudo et al. reference discloses an inclined circumferential section or cylindrical face. Applicant has amended independent claim 3 to clarify this claim and to further define the novelty of this claims. In particular, claim 3 requires a cylindrical face formed on the outer surface of each of the trunnions having a diameter less than a diameter of the outer surface with the cylindrical face *inclined relative to both the respective trunnion axes and the respective trunnion centerlines to present and expose the reduced diameter of the cylindrical face such that the roller assembly can be inserted onto the respective trunnion about the inclined cylindrical face*. As also set forth in claim 3, the trunnion centerlines are perpendicular to the trunnion axes. The inclined or angled cylindrical face is designed to greatly improve the installation procedures for inserting the roller assembly onto the trunnion. The installation procedure is illustrated best in Figure 3A of the subject application.

This unique structure and positioning of the cylindrical face on the trunnion for

allowing easy insertion of a roller assembly is not disclosed nor taught by the Kudo et al. reference. The circumferential sections on the trunnions of the Kudo et al. reference, as shown in Figures 1-9, 15-18, and 20-22 are all perpendicular to a trunnion axis and parallel with a trunnion centerline. The inclusion of a helical groove in the circumferential section for providing an oil-reserve, such as shown in Figure 15 of the Kudo et al. reference, does not anticipate a cylindrical face being inclined relative to both a trunnion axis and a trunnion centerline as required by claim 3. The circumferential section as disclosed in Figure 15 of the Kudo et al. reference is in no way inclined or angled to be presented and exposed to a roller assembly. Further, the helical groove in Figure 15 likewise does not provide any teaching or suggesting of modifying the circumferential section to angle the circumferential section relative to the axis and centerline of the trunnion. The circumferential sections of the Kudo et al. reference are exclusively concerned about providing adequate oil-reserves not for providing improved insertion capabilities of the roller assembly.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claim 3 is now allowable over the prior art of record, including the Kudo et al. reference. Claims 4, 5, and 7 depend from claim 3 and are believed allowable for the same reasons as given above in support of the allowability of claim 3. Having overcome each of the §112 rejections, claims 1, 2, and 8 are also believed allowable.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Application, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2789 for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

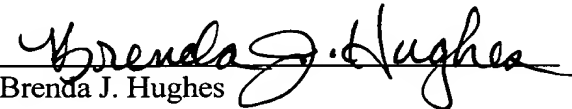


Date: April 24, 2003

Samuel J. Haidle, Registration No. 42,619
The Pinehurst Office Center, Suite 101
39400 Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-5151
(248) 723-0334

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the attached **Amendment** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on April 24, 2003.


Brenda J. Hughes